

Parkett, Truman H.

DKWIK 23

Sculptors-B  
(Statuettes)

71.2000 0000.02000



# Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Truman H. Bartlett

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection





MS. 58

Bartlett

In an attic room on St. James av sits a venerable sculptor, Truman H. Bartlett, writing and classifying and arranging all kinds of information in regard to Abraham Lincoln. He is absolutely sincere in the belief that Abraham Lincoln was not only one of the greatest men that ever lived, but one of the most noble in face and figure, and his life has been largely dedicated for half a century to a study of Lincoln. He made one of the first statues ever needed of the great emancipator. It was exhibited in the Paris Salon of 1878—a standing figure, with hands clasped in front of him—a tall, commanding, dignified figure.

Truman H. Bartlett has collected more portraits—daguerreotypes, photos, sketches and engravings—of Lincoln than any other man living, and knows more about the character of Lincoln from an artistic and physiological standpoint than any man that lives or has lived. He devotes his declining years exclusively to Lincolniana—collecting portraits, pictures and all kinds of information about the man who has dominated his life since a day back in 1872 when he happened into the studio of Gardner, the Washington photographer, and saw there for the first time a picture of Lincoln.

It was the artist in Truman H. Bartlett that was attracted by the little daguerreotype of Lincoln he saw that day. He wandered into the studio to see if Gardner had any photographs of Indians, of which he was making a collection at the time. While looking around he happened on what he insists is the finest portrait of Lincoln in existence, made three days before the famous Gettysburg speech was delivered, Nov. 18, 1863.

#### Lost Interest in Indians

"I wasn't interested in Lincoln at the time," says Mr. Bartlett, "in fact I knew little about him. I asked Gardner whose portrait it was. He said that's a portrait of Abraham Lincoln I made a few days before he went to Gettysburg. He came in here with Noah Brooks and I made two sittings of him." Is this for sale, I asked, and he said yes, there's no demand for Lincoln's pictures. So I got them both.

"Curiously enough nearly everybody liked the other picture best. In that one he sat rather stiffly in the chair and with one knee over the other. But in this one you see he sits easily with

his legs stretched out in front of him and the feet crossed. I thought then and I think now it is the most graceful and dignified figure of a human being I have ever seen. It is statueque, not Indian."

"I had just come over from Paris, where I had been studying with Fremiet, the great French sculptor. He was interested in Indians, and at the time several Washington photographers had been commissioned by the Government to go out West and photograph the Indians. I collected a lot of these photographs and took them back to Paris. In the bundle were these pictures of Lincoln, and when Fremiet saw them he took no further interest in the Indians."

"He wanted to know all about Lincoln. He said the man was more like a Greek god than a human being. He thought Lincoln's head was the finest head he had ever seen—noble, thoughtful, dignified. And he thought the pose of this portrait was perfect."

#### Deep Impression Everywhere

Then began the interest of Truman H. Bartlett in Lincoln. And since that time Lincoln has been his life study. He considers that Lincoln's hands were beautiful and almost as expressive as his face.

Lincoln's visits to New England have especially interested the veteran sculptor, and he finds that wherever Lincoln went he left a trail of what he terms "Lincolniads" behind. Lincoln had said or done something that made a deep impression on somebody or on a number of people, and became a sort of tradition with those people.

In the Zachary Taylor campaign in 1848 Lincoln spoke in a number of New England cities. Mr. Bartlett dug up one interesting incident connected with that visit. It was at Norwich, Conn., where Mr. Lincoln had spoken and where his fame as a story-teller had evidently preceded him.

There was a rather famous local story-teller and the wags of Norwich decided to get Lincoln and this man together if possible at the Pequot House after Lincoln had delivered his public address. They succeeded and a crowd enjoyed the repartee between the two men. Lincoln enjoyed it. They told story after story and finally about 2 o'clock in the morning Lincoln retired. Shortly after he had retired there was a knock at the door. The local celebrity had one more story, which he wanted Lincoln to hear before he went to sleep. So Lincoln

stood there in his nightgown and gravely listened to the farcical yarn.

The speech that made Lincoln famous in the East was the one he delivered in Cooper Union in New York city in 1860. He intended to return West after that speech, but the Republicans of Providence, R. I., were so urgent in their request for a speech that Lincoln acceded to their demands. So he went to Providence the next day and spoke there that evening to the largest audience that had ever listened to a speaker in that city.

#### When Lincoln Fished for Eels

He came to Boston the next morning, but there is no record of where he stopped. That day he went to Exeter, where his son "Bob" was a student at the time, and it was while on that visit that Lincoln spent a part of his time fishing for eels with William Wainwright, although the latter did not know at the time who his companion was. William Wainwright served afterward as a seaman on the famous Kearsarge, which sunk the Alabama off Cherbourg.


As Mr. Bartlett got the fishing incident from Wainwright it is as follows: "I was fishing on the bulkhead race of the mill in the river, which runs through Exeter. I had two poles and the eels were biting pretty fast. I heard someone climbing over the fence, which surrounded the mill property. I thought it was one of the boys, used a strange man came alongside of me and sat down on the bulkhead. He said that he had been watching me from the bridge and that I seemed to be pretty busy."

"I replied that I was and when he said that he 'enjoyed nishing' I offered him one of my poles. He remained about 20 minutes pulling out the eels until the pole which he was using broke. The stranger offered to pay for it, but I would accept nothing. He then went away."

"That night there was a meeting in Town Hall and when I went I found that my fellow-fisherman of the afternoon was Abraham Lincoln, the speaker of the occasion."

As Mr. Wainwright recalls, Lincoln wore the tall hat in which he is characteristically pictured. To his regret, he failed to retain the broken alder pole.

Mr. Bartlett says that in the course of his collecting material and information about Lincoln the paper in the East which has printed the most about the emancipator is the Boston Globe, and in the West the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.



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<http://archive.org/details/statuexxxxxxxxxxxblinc>



STATUE OF LINCOLN BY BARTLETT

"Made in summer of 1877 in Port Marley, a little hamlet on a branch of the River Seine, 2 miles from St. Germain near Paris.....

"A beautiful bronze cast was made of the statue, exhibited in the salon of 1877 and sold to the New York firm of Mitchell, Vance & Co. makers of bronze chandeliers. During the summer of 1907 I tried my best to find out what had become of the statue but without success, the present firm of same name being unable to locate it."

Forum Magazine, 1909.

Truman H. Bartlett



March 25, 1949

The Antique Shop  
827 Harvard Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Sir:

One day last February I was in Baltimore and stopped in your Antique Shop where you showed me a bronze shell statue of Lincoln, a full length portrate. Although you priced it to me at the time I do not recall the figure but it seemed a little high. Will you please let me know at what price you are holding it F.O.B. Baltimore for a cash purchase of course.

Very truly yours,

LAW/DPB  
L. A. Warren

Director



CONTINENTAL ANTIQUES  
MEISSEN - DRESDEN  
FRENCH & ENGLISH CHINA

PHONE, VERNON 5991

# The Antique Shop

ERWIN FORCHHEIMER

827 N. HOWARD STREET

SILVERWARE  
FURNITURE  
GLASSWARE

RESIDENCE PHONE.  
VERNON 7518-J

BALTIMORE 1, MD. March 29, 1949

Dear Dr. Warren:

The very best  
I can do for the Lincoln by  
Bartlett is \$700. It is a

very good buy, and I am sure  
will add a lot to your  
famous collection.

I am sending a photo of  
it under separate cover.

Hoping to receive your order  
I remain,

Sincerely,

The Antique Shop  
by Erwin Forchheimer





Mr. McAndless:

Note that the dealer refers to  
"your famous collection" which might imply  
a Ben Simon contact.

L. A. Warren





R. B. LANHAM, GENERAL AGENT  
PHONE: SARATOGA 3529



*Its name indicates its character*

1015 O'SULLIVAN BLDG.  
BALTIMORE 2, MARYLAND

## The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company

April 5, 1949

Mr. A. J. McAndless, President  
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. McAndless:

While here you mentioned that there was a statue of Abraham Lincoln which Dr. Warren would like to purchase if same could be purchased at the right price.

You intended to give me the details of this but in the confusion I failed to get them from you. If you or Dr. Warren will give me the situation, the maximum amount he will pay, the location, I will be glad to see what I can do.

Hoping to see you Friday morning, I remain

Sincerely yours,

R. B. Lanham  
General Agent

RBL/bm

*The statue name - The Antique Shop  
827 N Howard  
might give \$300 for it  
to the Rm's Building*

Home Office, Fort Wayne, Indiana



April 12, 1949

Mr. R. B. Lanham  
1015 O'Sullivan Bldg.  
Baltimore 2, Maryland

Dear Roy:

With further reference to the statue of Abraham Lincoln mentioned in your letter of April 5, the dealer's name is Erwin Forchheimer, The Antique Shop, 827 N. Howard Street, Baltimore 1, Maryland. Is this Ben's relative?

The maximum amount we might pay for the statue is \$300.00

Sincerely yours,

AJMcA:MD

President

(Lipson)

Don't let this stand you are inquiring for us.



April 8, 1949

Mr. Erwin Forchheimer  
The Antique Shop  
827 N. Howard Street  
Baltimore, 1, Md.

Dear Mr. Forchheimer:

We regret that we have been unable to sell ourselves on the acquisition of the Lincoln statuette. Thanks nevertheless for forwarding the photograph, which we return under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

LAW:mmm

Director









6  
JOSEPH KATZ  
TEN WEST CHASE STREET  
BALTIMORE

October 15, 1956

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

This is in reply to your letter addressed to  
Mr. Forchheimer.

I am the owner of the Abraham Lincoln bust  
by Bartlett. Here is a photograph of it,  
with the following wording on the back:

39 inches tall

signed Bartlett 1877

Only existing bronze  
of this kind

I will take \$1000 for it.

Sincerely

*Joseph Katz*  
Joseph Katz

JK/gm



October 18, 1956

Mr. Joseph Katz  
Ten West Chase Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Katz:

I was glad to have your letter which evidently was turned over to you by Mr. Forchheimer. When I wrote Mr. Forchheimer I was of the opinion that he still owned the Bartlett statuette of Abraham Lincoln. About four, five or six years ago he offered the Bartlett statuette to us at a price of \$700. Thinking that he still owned the statuette, I was hoping that we might be able to negotiate a deal centering around that figure.

Now that you own the statuette, I can readily see that you would like to sell it for \$1,000. However I regret to say that I do not feel that I can raise sufficient funds to make the purchase at this time.

I am returning to you the photograph which you submitted.

Thanking you for your prompt reply to my inquiry, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

RCM/JA  
Enc.

Director



JOSEPH KATZ  
TEN WEST CHASE STREET  
BALTIMORE

October 24, 1956

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne  
Indiana

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

Thanks for your letter.

I would be willing to let you have  
the Lincoln bronze by Bartlett for  
\$850.

Sincerely

Joseph Katz

JK/gm

*Handwritten notes:*  
- 368  
- 114/5-7  
- 114/5-7  
- 114/5-7



October 26, 1956

Mr. Joseph Katz  
Ten West Chase Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Katz;

I have your letter of October 24th and I note that you will be willing to take \$850 for your Lincoln bronze statuette by Bartlett.

Will you give me some time to make a decision regarding the purchase of this item.

I expect to be in Baltimore sometime next January or February. Would it be possible for me to visit you at that time and take a look at the Bartlett statuette? While I like the appearance of the statuette as depicted by the photograph which you sent me, I still think it would be well for me to see the statuette before I make the purchase.

Hoping that you will give me a little time to reach a decision regarding this matter, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

RGM/JA

Director





④  
JOSEPH KATZ  
TEN WEST CHASE STREET  
BALTIMORE

October 29, 1956

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

Of course I'll be glad to give you  
the time you want to think the matter  
over. And when you are in Baltimore  
I'll be delighted to have you come  
in and look at the Bartlett.

Sincerely

*Joseph Katz*  
Joseph Katz

JK/gm



November 2, 1956

Mr. Joseph Katz  
Ten West Chase Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Katz:

I have your letter of October 29 and I am delighted to know that you will give me some time to consider the matter of the purchase of the Bartlett statuette of Abraham Lincoln.

I will be in Baltimore, Maryland on February 13, 14, and 15 and I would like to contact you sometime during my three-day stay in your city. I will be there on an extensive speaking itinerary and yet I will have ample time I'm sure to pay you a visit.

Looking forward to seeing this interesting statuette which is now in your possession, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

RGM/JA

Director



December 7, 1956

Mr. Joseph Katz  
10 West Chase Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Katz:

We will be delighted to place your name on our Lincoln Lore subscription list.

I trust that you will find these bulletins an interest. We are sending you a few back numbers.

As you are willing to sell your Lincoln bronze statuette by Bartlett for \$850 and as we are considering it's purchase would you be so kind to send me the photograph of the statuette.

Several months ago you sent me the photograph and I returned it to you. At this time I would like to take up the matter with my superiors regarding its purchase.

Yours sincerely,

Director

RCMcMurtry/ch



THE JOSEPH KATZ COMPANY *Advertising*

*Address your reply to Baltimore*

BALTIMORE, 10 W CHASE ST

NEW YORK, AMOCO BUILDING  
555 FIFTH AVE

December 10, 1956

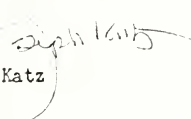
Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
Director  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

Thanks for sending me Lincoln Lore. I shall  
look forward to it.

I would be very happy to send you the Lincoln  
bronze statuette on approval. Won't that  
serve your purpose better than the photograph?  
Please let me hear from you about this.

Sincerely yours,

  
Joseph Katz

JK/mcs





December 19, 1956

Mr. Joseph Katz  
10 W. Chase St.  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Mr. Katz:

As you must surmise I am quite interested in the purchase of your Bartlett Statuette of Abraham Lincoln.

However, I must stay within my budget and before I can purchase your statuette I must make a rather careful accounting of my commitments.

I think perhaps by February I will know where I stand budget wise and then I can make a definite decision about the Bartlett statuette.

I fear if you should ship the bust on approval the executive officers in charge of my department might feel that I was moving too fast before getting their approval.

Perhaps if you will send me the photograph I can get their approval in advance and then close the deal with you next February.

Sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGH:ss





*His name indicates his character*

*Dr. Mc Murtry*

# The Lincoln National Life Foundation

*2/4*

Fort Wayne, Indiana

R. GERALD McMURTRY  
DIRECTOR

February 1, 1957

*Mr. Katz -*

Mr. Allen C. Steere, Vice President  
and General Counsel  
Home Office

*2 would like*

Dear Allen:

*to fellow Dr.  
Mc Murtry's*

I have located in Baltimore, Maryland, one of the  
finest sculptural works of Lincoln in existence.

*recommendation -*

The work is a statuette of Lincoln in bronze by  
Truman H. Bartlett. It is at present owned by Joseph Katz  
an advertising executive. I have pretty good evidence that  
Katz paid \$750. for the statuette sometime in the early 1940s.  
Today Katz is offering to sell me the statuette for \$850.

*As  
OK  
Wong*

The statuette is 39" tall and is signed by Bartlett  
with the date 1877. This is the only work of its kind in  
existence.

This sculptural work is so excellent that it is  
worthy of a place in the finest art museum and it could possibly  
have a value of several thousand dollars.

This piece is virtually a lost work of art. It was  
made in the summer of 1877 in Port Marley, a little hamlet on  
a branch of the River Seine, 2 miles from St. German near Paris.

In 1877 it was exhibited in a Paris Salon and sold  
to the New York firm of Mitchell, Vance & Co., maker of bronze  
chandeliers.

In 1907 when Bartlett became an eminent art critic  
and sculptor he conducted a nationwide search for this statuette,  
however, he was unable to find it.

I will visit Katz in Baltimore around February 13-15.  
with the idea of purchasing the statuette for the Foundation  
collection.



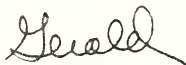
Mr. Allen C. Steere

-2-

February 1, 1957

The purpose of this letter is to get your approval of the purchase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerald", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Gerald McMurtry

RCM:ss

encl.

Mr. Allen C. Brown

The  
1911

1911



THE LOUIS A. WARREN  
LINCOLN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

1300 SOUTH CLINTON STREET / FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46801

MARK E. NEELY, JR.  
Director

Telephone (219) 424-5421

December 2, 1980

Dr. Kenneth A. Bernard  
50 Chatham Road  
Harwich Center, Massachusetts 02645

Dear Dr. Bernard:

Sorry it has taken me so long to respond to your October 24, 1980, letter. I have been on vacation and just returned is my excuse.

I have traced our information back on the Bartlett statuette. I can tell you of its location from March, 1949, up until 1957, the date of our purchase of the statuette. In 1949, Mr. Erwin Forchheimer of The Antique Shop in Baltimore, Maryland, was negotiating on a sale of the statuette to us at that time. In October, 1956, an inquiry was made by Dr. McMurtry to Mr. Forchheimer regarding the statuette whom he thought was the owner. Dr. McMurtry received a reply to his inquiry from Joseph Katz who said he was the owner. Apparently Mr. Forchheimer of The Antique Shop had been trying to sell the statuette of Bartlett for Mr. Joseph Katz, the owner in 1956 and also no doubt the owner in 1949. Xerox copies of correspondence is enclosed.

Enclosed are copies of Lincoln Lore bulletins numbered 123 and 1441 and also Xerox copies of the McClure's, August, 1907, magazine article "The Physiognomy of Lincoln" and Harper's Weekly, February 10, 1912, article entitled "An Old Likeness of Lincoln."

Sincerely yours,

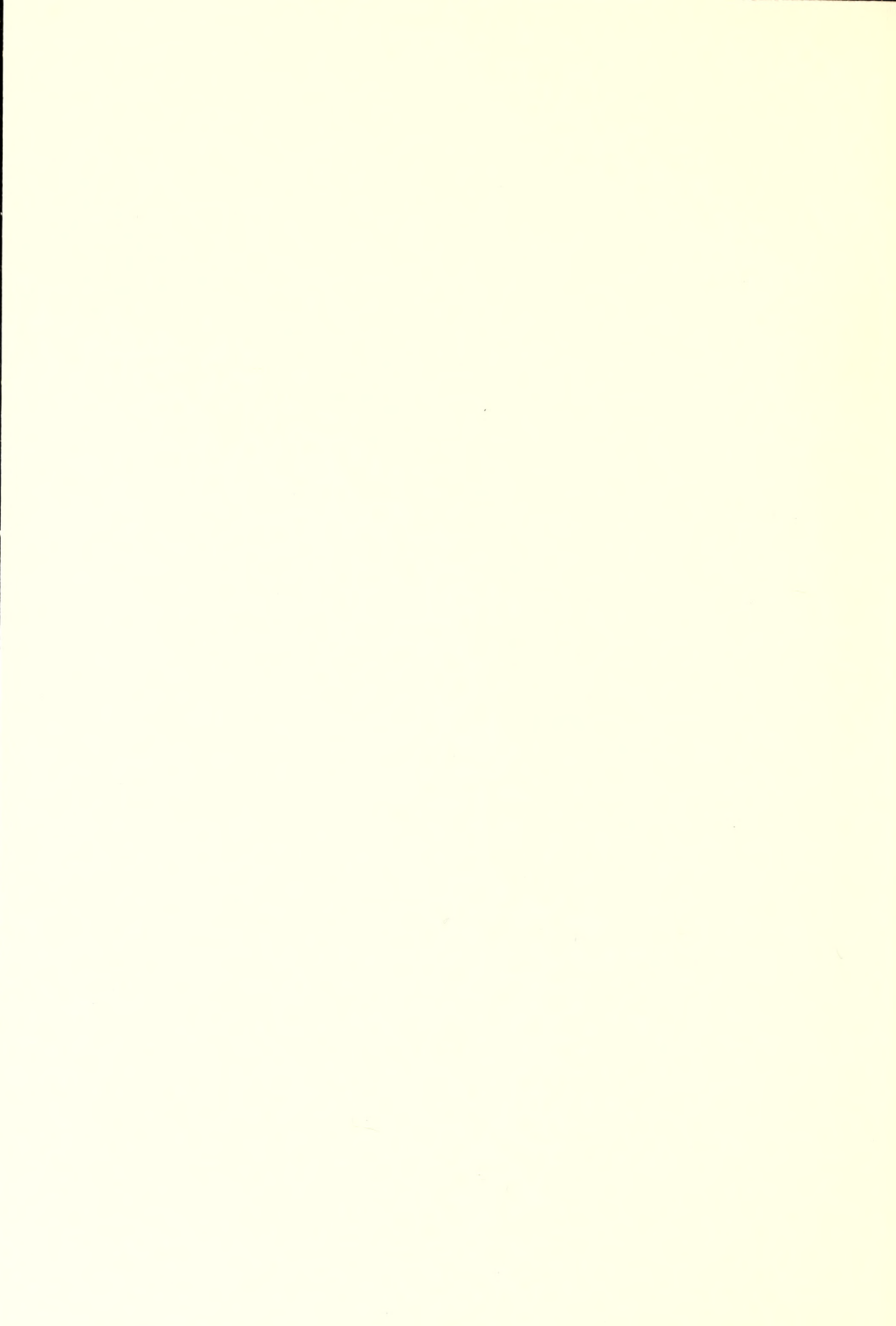
Mrs. Mary Jane Hubler  
Assistant to Dr. Neely

MJH/jaf  
Enclosures













Parlett, Truman, H.

LEAVER

23

Sculptors-B  
(Statuettes)

